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## **Smiths Creek Landfill to become test site for bioreactor decomposition project**

**LANSING** – Legislation to allow a first-of-its-kind bioreactor demonstration project at Smiths Creek Landfill has been signed into law, said Sen. Jud Gilbert, R-Algonac.

Public Act 243 of 2005, sponsored by Gilbert, allows the use of septic waste from residential septic tanks to be used to decompose garbage in a landfill. If successful, the procedure could be used throughout the country.

“It is great news that this groundbreaking project will be allowed to go forward to help provide an economic boost to the county,” Gilbert said. “This project is environmentally sound and selling the excess methane gas is fiscally responsible as well.”

According to research, a wet landfill decomposes better than a dry landfill. Currently, waste is dumped into a hole and covered with dirt, taking many years or even decades to decompose. The micro-organisms in the septic waste would increase the decomposition rate dramatically. To prevent the liquid septic waste from seeping into the ground, the landfill will be fitted with a special double lining.

In addition to speeding up the decomposition process, the procedure will allow septic waste to be used instead of being taken to a wastewater treatment facility. It is economically friendly and has the support of state environmental groups as well.

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